This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

<u>Listing of Claims:</u>

1   1. (currently amended) A video telephone comprising:
2   image pickup means which captures an image of a subject
3   and generates a pickup ~~image~~ signal;
4   pickup signal processing means which processes the pickup
5   signal and outputs a pickup image signal;
6   processing means <u>including a microprocessor</u> for executing
7   <u>an image modification program for implementing</u> one
8   or more image modification processing techniques
9   which subjects the pickup image signal to an image
10   modification processing to produce a modified image
11   signal for protecting a portrait right;
12   image signal selection means which selects one of the
13   pickup image signal from the pickup signal
14   processing means and the modified image signal; and
15   communication means which transmits an output image
16   signal from the image signal selection means.

1   2. (previously presented) A video telephone according to
2   claim 1, wherein the image signal selection means selects and
3   outputs the modified image signal from the processing means
4   at a time of starting communication, and thereafter selects
5   and outputs the pickup image signal from the pickup signal
6   processing means in response to an operational instruction
7   from a calling party.

1   3. (previously presented) A video telephone according to
2   claim 1, wherein the image signal selection means selects and
3   outputs the modified image signal from the processing means
4   at a time of starting communication, and thereafter selects

5   and outputs the pickup image signal from the pickup signal

6   processing means in response to confirmation of authentication

7   of a partner side of a calling party.

1   4. (previously presented) A video telephone according to

2   claim 1, wherein the processing means performs a defocusing

3   processing for placing an image based on the pickup image

4   signal in a defocused state.

1   5. (previously presented) A video telephone according to

2   claim 1, wherein the processing means performs a deforming

3   processing for converting two-dimensional positional

4   information of pixels in the pickup image signal at an

5   arbitrary ratio.

1   6. (previously presented) A video telephone according to

2   claim 1, wherein the processing means performs a resolution

3   reducing processing for reducing a resolution of the pickup

4   image signal.

1   7. (previously presented) A video telephone according to

2   claim 1, wherein the processing means performs a tone

3   resolution reducing processing for reducing a tone resolution

4   of the pickup image signal.

1   8. (currently amended) A video telephone comprising:

2   image pickup means which captures an image of a subject

3   and generates a pickup signal;

4   pickup signal processing means which processes the pickup

5   signal and outputs a pickup image signal;

6   image modification processing means for executing a

7   program which subjects the pickup image signal to an

8   image modification processing for protecting a

9   portrait right, said image modification including

10   one or more of defocusing processing, deforming

11   processing, resolution reducing processing, tone

12   resolution reducing processing, diffusing image

13   processing, transverse blurring processing, and

14   contour extracting processing;

15   image signal selection means which selects one of the

16   pickup image signal from the pickup signal

17   processing means and a modified image signal from

18   the image modification processing means; and

19   communication means which transmits an output image

20   signal from the image signal selection means.

1   9. (previously presented) A video telephone according to

2   claim 8, wherein the image signal selection means selects and

3   outputs the modified image signal from the image modification

4   processing means at a time of starting communication, and

5   thereafter selects and outputs the pickup image signal from

6   the pickup signal processing means in response to an

7   operational instruction from a calling party.

1   10. (previously presented) A video telephone according to

2   claim 8, wherein the image signal selection means selects and

3   outputs the modified image signal from the image modification

4   processing means at a time of starting communication, and

5   thereafter selects and outputs the pickup image signal from

6   the pickup signal processing means in response to confirmation

7   of authentication of a partner side of a calling party.

1   11. (currently amended) A video telephone comprising:

2   image pickup means which captures an image of a subject

3   and generates a pickup signal;

4   pickup signal processing means which processes the pickup

5   signal and outputs a pickup image signal;

6   image modification processing means <u>for executing a</u>
7   <u>program</u> which subjects the pickup image signal to
8   defocusing processing for placing an image based on
9   the pickup image signal in a defocused state;
10   image signal selection means which selects one of the
11   pickup image signal from the pickup signal
12   processing means and a modified image signal from
13   the image modification processing means; and
14   communication means which transmits an output image
15   signal from the image signal selection means.

1   12. (previously presented) A video telephone according to
2   claim 11, wherein the image signal selection means selects and
3   outputs the modified image signal from the image modification
4   processing means at a time of starting communication, and
5   thereafter selects and outputs the pickup image signal from
6   the pickup signal processing means in response to an
7   operational instruction from a calling party.

1   13. (previously presented) A video telephone according to
2   claim 11, wherein the image signal selection means selects and
3   outputs the modified image signal from the image modification
4   processing means at a time of starting communication, and
5   thereafter selects and outputs the pickup image signal from
6   the pickup signal processing means in response to confirmation
7   of authentication of a partner side of a calling party.

1   14. (currently amended) A video telephone comprising:
2   image pickup means which captures an image of a subject
3   and generates a pickup signal;
4   pickup signal processing means which processes the pickup
5   signal and outputs a pickup image signal;
6   image modification processing means for executing a
7   <u>program</u> which subjects the pickup image signal to

8   deforming processing for converting two-dimensional

9   positional information of pixels in the pickup image

10   signal at an arbitrary ratio,;

11   image signal selection means which selects one of the

12   pickup image signal from the pickup signal

13   processing means and a modified image signal from

14   the image modification processing means; and

15   communication means which transmits an output image

16   signal from the image signal selection means.

1   15. (previously presented) A video telephone according to

2 claim 14, wherein the image signal selection means selects and

3 outputs the modified image signal from the image modification

4 processing means at a time of starting communication, and

5 thereafter selects and outputs the pickup image signal from

6 the pickup signal processing means in response to an

7 operational instruction from a calling party.

1   16. (previously presented) A video telephone according to

2 claim 14, wherein the image signal selection means selects and

3 outputs the modified image signal from the image modification

4 processing means at a time of starting communication, and

5 thereafter selects and outputs the pickup image signal from

6 the pickup signal processing means in response to confirmation

7 of authentication of a partner side of a calling party.

1   17. (currently amended) A video telephone comprising:

2   image pickup means which captures an image of a subject

3   and generates a pickup signal;

4   pickup signal processing means which processes the pickup

5   signal and outputs a pickup image signal;

6   image modification processing means for executing a

7   program which subjects the pickup image signal to

8   resolution reducing processing for reducing a

9   resolution of the pickup image signal;

10   image signal selection means which selects one of the

11   pickup image signal from the pickup signal

12   processing means and a modified image signal from

13   the image modification processing means; and

14   communication means which transmits an output image

15   signal from the image signal selection means.

1   18. (previously presented) A video telephone according to

2   claim 17, wherein the image signal selection means selects and

3   outputs the modified image signal from the image modification

4   processing means at a time of starting communication, and

5   thereafter selects and outputs the pickup image signal from

6   the pickup signal processing means in response to an

7   operational instruction from a calling party.

1   19. (previously presented) A video telephone according to

2   claim 17, wherein the image signal selection means selects and

3   outputs the modified image signal from the image modification

4   processing means at a time of starting communication, and

5   thereafter selects and outputs the pickup image signal from

6   the pickup signal processing means in response to confirmation

7   of authentication of a partner side of a calling party.

1   20. (currently amended) A video telephone comprising:

2   image pickup means which captures an image of a subject

3   and generates a pickup signal;

4   pickup signal processing means which processes the pickup

5   signal and outputs a pickup image signal;

6   image modification processing means for executing a

7   program which subjects the pickup image signal to

8   tone resolution reducing processing for reducing a

9   tone resolution of the pickup image signal;

10   image signal selection means which selects one of the

11   pickup image signal from the pickup signal

12   processing means and a modified image signal from

13   the image modification processing means; and

14   communication means which transmits an output image

15   signal from the image signal selection means.

1   21. (previously presented) A video telephone according to

2 claim 20, wherein the image signal selection means selects and

3 outputs the modified image signal from the image modification

4 processing means at a time of starting communication, and

5 thereafter selects and outputs the pickup image signal from

6 the pickup signal processing means in response to an

7 operational instruction from a calling party.

1   22. (previously presented) A video telephone according to

2 claim 20, wherein the image signal selection means selects and

3 outputs the modified image signal from the image modification

4 processing means at a time of starting communication, and

5 thereafter selects and outputs the pickup image signal from

6 the pickup signal processing means in response to confirmation

7 of authentication of a partner side of a calling party.

1   23. (previously presented) A video telephone according to

2 claim 1 wherein said image modification processing is

3 accomplished using a multi-purpose CPU or a digital signal

4 processor.

5   24. (previously presented) A video telephone according to

6 claim 1 wherein said processing means is a digital signal

7 processor.

1   25. (previously presented) A video telephone according to

2 claim 1 wherein said processing means is a multi-purpose CPU.